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and contains those free criticisms of the clergy which the elder Garneau felt obliged to omit, for the sake of peace, in his later editions. For students of western history the account of the French explorations and settlement of the Mississippi Valley will be most interesting, for this is perhaps the most readable account we now have. The editor has made many important additions and corrections here, but he still clings to the tradition of La Salle's discovery of the Ohio River in 1669.

The volume is the first of the publications of the *Bibliothèque France-Amérique* and in typographical perfection and paper as well as scholarship gives promise of the character of this series. The preface by Mr. Gabriel Hanotaux will be read by many with interest. It summarizes the thought of a modern school of historians and statesmen, namely that the history of the modern times is that of colonies and that a nation without colonies will have "no mercantile or naval greatness and without these a nation with a long sea-coast is at the mercy of its rivals."

C. W. A.

Masters of the Wilderness. By Charles Bert Reed, M. D. [Chicago Historical Society: Fort Dearborn Series.] (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1914. 144 p. \$1.00)

This book consists of three essays each of which bears upon the history of the wilderness frontier. The first essay entitled "The Masters of the Wilderness" gives the title to the whole volume. This chapter gives a very interesting account of the origin and growth of the Hudson's Bay Company with a portrayal of its powerful influence on the development of Canada, and sketches the activities of the company from the beginning down to modern times. This vigorous organization was in existence under its charter of 1670 for just two hundred years and since 1870 has subsisted as a trading company alone; yet its resources have increased in value and the company is secure in the peaceful and legal possession of a vast fortune constantly increasing in value, the foundation of which was laid in the earlier period. The author shows in a most interesting way how the search for the northwest passage which was the goal of the early explorers developed the fur trade, and this in turn led to settlement and the dawn of a new era.

The second essay entitled "The Beaver Club" is closely allied to the first since it gives a history of a social club of Montreal the members of which were drawn from partners and factors of the Northwestern Fur Company which was a rival of the Hudson's Bay Company. For forty years the club dominated the social, political, and commercial life of Canada. In 1821 a permanent union was effected between the Hudson's Bay Company and the Northwestern Fur Company, and in

this union the former remained supreme. As a result the Beaver Club lost its unity of spirit and in 1824 came to an official end.

The last essay entitled "A Dream of Empire" is devoted particularly to the adventures of Tonti in old Louisiana. In introducing the main theme the author gives an outline of Tonti's earlier career in America while associated with La Salle, showing his loyalty and unselfish devotion to his superior. The story of Tonti's efforts to establish the control of the French in the interior of North America is told in a most interesting, clear, and concise way.

Dr. Reed in his preface says: "The most insistent fact in history is the struggle between man and Nature, or between man and man with Nature for the prize." These essays well illustrate the struggle. He remarks that "in truth history should stimulate more powerfully than fiction" and "If kindling the mind is the mark of literary excellence, then it belongs to the historian, as to the novelist, to present his subject so that events will appear, not only in due order, but with appropriate values and the necessary climax." He also adds that "every chronicler, however veracious in intent, must pass his material through his own personality, be it colored or neutral. It is this which develops the human interest and keeps history in its rightful place as a branch of literature."

The author believes that he has neither exaggerated the color nor distorted the facts of the circumstances which he narrates. The style is narrative and picturesque and the book as a whole is a valuable contribution to our western history and is a successful attempt to awaken an interest in more of the remarkable episodes of our early history. A more clever and readable presentation of the subjects undertaken by the author could hardly be expected. On the whole Dr. Reed's book is one which will interest the general reader as well as the historical student, and is issued with the purpose of acquainting the reader with facts too little known.

This volume appears in the *Fort Dearborn Series* of the *Publications* of the Chicago Historical Society where the three papers were originally read. The University of Chicago Press has recently become the publishing and distributing agent for this series.

HARLOW LINDLEY

The West in the Diplomacy of the American Revolution. By Paul Chrisler Phillips, Ph. D., assistant professor of history, University of Montana. [University of Illinois Studies in the Social Sciences, vol. II, nos. 2 and 3.] (Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois, 1914. 247 p. \$1.25)

This book is a doctor's thesis and an exceptionally good one. It pre-